

the remaining trees are given to the people to cut and take, as the exercise of privileges is not restricted to fixed times, is not limited in most cases to defined quantity, is not subjected to control such as would result from the introduction of a permit system, it is not possible to arrive at any correct knowledge of the value of the exploitations of timber, firewood, bām̄bus, rāb material, grass, fruits, flowers, &c., &c., &c., brought out of the forests free of charge by forest villagers, wild tribes and others, for domestic use, or for barter, or sale. The free pasturage enjoyed by cattle of forest villagers inside reserved forests, alone, represents a considerable income. As the entry of hypothetical figures in an administration report is objectionable, it would not be correct to enter an estimate, which might require six or seven figures to represent it, and it is needless to say that privileges, unregulated by conditions which forestry demands, are a direct consuming attack upon the capital value of the forests, and that the value of the damages done to the productive powers of the forests, added to the unrealised value of the produce removed or enjoyed free of charge, if worked out, would give a startling result.

V.—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF FOREST PRODUCE.

168. The following statement shows the imports and exports in the North Thána Division, as compared with the results of the past year :—

Range.	IMPORTS.				EXPORTS.					
	1888-89.		1889-90.		1888-89.			1889-90.		
	Timber Poles.	Firewood.	Timber Poles.	Firewood.	Timber Poles.	Firewood.	Bām̄bus.	Timber Poles.	Firewood.	Bām̄bus.
	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	No.	C. ft.	C. ft.	No.
Sálsette	8,220	31,807	...	...	3,111	5,675	...	...	8,925	...
Bassein ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	253,975	6,326	57,574	339,463	...
Máhim ... ..	...	...	...	...	210,102	436,612	66,777	156,981	425,063	...
Dáhanu ... ..	...	...	...	...	330,843	155,762	169,019	702,915	359,737	407,559
Umbargaon ... ..	...	5,375	...	9,437	34,131	95,139	...	...	9,225	...
Váda ... ..	...	...	...	...	129,822	22,437	...	36,207	45,412	...
Total	8,220	37,182	...	9,437	708,009	969,600	242,122	953,677	1,187,825	407,559

169. The import trade of timber and other produce in the eastern portion of Khándesh was not great during a part of the year, owing to the forests in foreign territory bordering upon the frontiers of the division having been closed against teak and tiwas exploitation, and consequently the amount of duty collected upon foreign timber is only Rs. 12,386 as against Rs. 13,551 of the preceding year.

170. In the western portion of Khándesh, although the import trade is large, still it declined considerably owing to prohibitions enforced upon the removal of certain species of timber, and to enhanced fees levied upon other kinds in the adjoining forests of the Barwani, Mowas, Gaikwari and Indore states, and therefore, the duty collected amounted to Rs. 15,051 only, while Rs. 18,307 were realised the year before.

CHAPTER V.

FINANCIAL RESULTS.

171. Last year's financial results were the highest on record, but those of this year have considerably surpassed these figures also, and have thus more than maintained the financial prosperity of the Circle, as will be seen from the following comparative statement :—

Years.	Receipts.	EXPENDITURE.			Net Revenue.
		A. Conservancy and Works.	B. Establishments.	Total.	
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1888-89	11,60,768 8 5	2,41,836 7 4	4,85,575 12 5	7,27,412 3 9	4,33,356 4 8
1889-90	11,85,540 5 4	2,18,518 11 3	4,86,838 7 10	7,05,357 3 1	4,80,183 2 3
Increase	24,771 12 11	.....	1,262 11 5	.....	46,826 13 7
Decrease ... ..	.....	23,317 12 1	.....	22,055 0 8	.....

172. The distribution of receipts among the several divisions of the Northern Circle, as compared with those of the past year, is given in the following statement :—

No.	Division.	1888-89.	1889-90.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Direction	103 15 11	19 3 0	.....	84 12 11
2	North Thána	2,25,878 13 9	2,67,025 4 10	41,146 7 1	.....
3	South Thána	2,04,454 15 3	1,99,819 12 7	.....	4,635 2 8
4	East Khándesh	93,628 12 0	97,968 13 7	4,340 1 7	.....
5	West Khándesh	1,28,172 6 7	1,66,853 8 0	38,681 1 5	.....
6	Násik	93,379 15 2	89,107 11 9	.....	4,272 3 5
7	Ahmednagar	55,145 15 10	42,358 14 11	.....	12,787 0 11
8	Poona	1,01,909 4 2	97,961 7 1	.....	3,947 13 1
9	Sátára	85,356 2 5	75,858 5 4	.....	9,497 13 1
10	Sholápur	24,646 15 2	19,345 14 3	.....	5,301 0 11
11	Surat	99,807 12 3	68,094 1 11	.....	31,713 10 4
12	Panch Maháls	48,283 7 11	61,127 4 1	12,843 12 2	.....
13	Working Plans ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Total ..	11,60,768 8 5	11,85,540 5 4	97,011 6 3	72,239 9 4

173. It will be seen that the increase in revenue in the divisions of North Thána, East and West Khándesh and Panch Maháls, has more than counter-balanced the decline in other divisions, leaving a net increase of Rs. 24,771-12-11 over the actuals of last year. In the North Thána Division the coupe system of sale of standing timber, to be felled and removed by purchasers, at their own cost, is being better understood, the competition for buying coupes is becoming keener, and consequently the coupes sold during the year realised advanced prices. The decline in South Thána is due to the departmentally felled material remaining on hand unsold at the close of the year, as the villagers do not apparently approve of a large public department entering into retail shopkeeping; and in this they show their wisdom. The increase in the two Khándesh Divisions is due to brisk sales of teak rafters and to higher prices offered for firewood and for contracts for the distillation of Rosha grass oil. The decrease in the Násik Division is due to the expected sales of teak trees in Málki numbers not having come off. In the Ahmednagar Division the diminished revenue is accounted for by the fact that, last year closed portions of reserves were thrown open to cattle on payment of fees in order to relieve the distress arising from the scarcity of fodder, and consequently the grazing receipts, which affected the total revenue, were abnormally high, while no closed reserves have been opened to grazing this year. In addition to this cause a larger forest area, the grass crop of which is valued at Rs. 1,500, was placed at the disposal of the Commissariat Department for the supply of cut hay and fodder grass. The revenue in the Poona Division is less than that of the last year by a small sum of Rs. 3,948, which is owing to the very much larger tracts of reserved forests having been made available to the Commissariat Department at Poona, for the supply of hay to Government cattle and horses belonging to the Military Department at Poona and Kirkee; an unusually indifferent crop of hirdás also contributed to the fall. In the Sátára Division the greater part of the decrease is attributable to the very bad hirda crop owing to hail and rain storms, which knocked the young fruits off the trees when ripening. Although the receipts in the Sholápur

Division are less than those of the preceding year, still compared with the Budget figures they are satisfactory. The opening of large tracts of closed forests to grazing, as an exceptional and temporary arrangement, augmented the revenue during 1888-89, while no such adventitious additions to revenue occurred during the year. The falling off in the gross receipts of the Surat Division is attributable to the large stock of teak timber from the Lower Dāngs remaining unsold at the close of the year, through combinations on the part of dealers, measures for the defeat of which are being taken. The sales of stock on hand at the commencement of the year, together with the fact that high prices ruled the auction-sales of standing teak during the year, explain the increase to be perceived in the gross receipts of the Panch Maháls Division.

174. The following statement exhibits the distribution of expenditure under "A. Conservancy and Works" among the several divisions of the Northern Circle, as compared with that of the past year:—

No.	Division.	1888-89.	1889-90.	Increase.	Decrease.
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Direction ...	1,000 8 3	720 12 3	.....	279 12 0
2	North Thána ...	18,839 4 4	21,032 3 5	2,192 15 1	.....
3	South Thána ..	44,241 4 0	41,110 13 10	.....	3,130 6 2
4	East Khándesh ...	16,293 0 3	9,003 3 6	.....	7,289 12 9
5	West Khándesh ...	17,082 5 2	18,498 14 6	1,416 9 4	.....
6	Násik ...	29,529 3 10	10,179 9 3	.....	19,349 10 7
7	Ahmednagar ...	11,808 1 0	12,456 11 10	648 10 10	.....
8	Poona ...	25,876 12 0	30,403 1 3	4,526 5 3	.....
9	Sátára ...	28,693 5 4	18,832 1 5	.....	9,861 3 11
10	Sholápur ...	4,522 1 2	7,845 5 1	3,323 3 11	.....
11	Surat ...	22,074 7 8	28,565 3 4	6,490 11 8	.....
12	Panch Maháls ...	3,770 8 7	2,710 13 7	.....	1,059 11 0
13	Working Plans ...	18,105 9 9	17,159 14 0	.....	945 11 9
	Total ...	2,41,836 7 4	2,18,518 11 3	18,598 8 1	41,916 4 2

175. The increase of expenditure in some of the divisions amounting to Rs. 18,598 is more than covered by decrease in others, the balanced account showing a net decrease of Rs. 23,317-12-1 upon the actuals of the preceding year. The increase in North Thána is mainly due to arrear payments on account of remuneration to village officers for collecting forest revenue since 1879. The decrease in South Thána is attributable to smaller amount expended on payment of compensation for lands, required for the protection of the Tansa Lake catchment. No expenditure was incurred in the East Khándesh Division for acquiring occupied lands for forests in the year of the report, while large payments were made in the preceding year. The increase in the office establishment of the Forest Settlement Officer has augmented the expenditure in the West Khándesh Division. The large decrease in Násik is due to the reduction in forest survey charges. In the Ahmednagar Division the increase is inconsiderable, and was caused by the purchase of barbed wire for fencing purposes. The debit of Rs. 11,382 on account of forest survey has increased the expenditure of the Poona Division. The decrease of Rs. 9,862 in the Sátára Division is due, to some extent, to smaller expenditure in the purchase of hirḍa and shikákái, and to the full amounts provided for under VIII b. and d. not having been expended during the year. In the Sholápur Division the increase was caused by the purchase of material for wire fencing, and by more extended operations in erecting live fences and eradicating prickly pear. In the Surat Division the increase is principally due to departmental operations, both in the Dāngs and Mándvi Range, having been undertaken on a larger scale, and to the cost incurred on floating timber from Khedpur to Fulpara upon the Tápti river. In the Panch Maháls Division less expenditure on departmental fellings of timber and firewood, and the reduction in the office establishment of the Forest Settlement Officer, are accountable for the decrease. The decrease in the Working Plans Division is inconsiderable, and is due to savings in the entertainment of temporary field establishment.

176. The figures of expenditure under B. Establishments during the year, which exhibit an increase of Rs. 1,262 only, over the results of last year, call for

no special remark, fluctuations in pay and allowances of officers are the causes of the differences which appear. But the excess is due entirely to a sum of Rs. 1,784 having been debited to the accounts of the Northern Circle, on account of payments made in Bombay to Forest officers of other provinces; although this charge has no connection whatever with the expenditure of the Northern Circle. The result has been to reduce the surplus revenue of the Northern Circle, otherwise the net revenue of the Northern Circle would be exhibited as Rs. 4,81,967 in place of Rs. 4,80,183.

CHAPTER VI.

GENERAL REMARKS.

177. Leaving the Akola Dángs in the Ahmednagar Division the Conservator walked down into the Junnar Taluka of the Poona Collectorate, through the Harischandragad forests, and his camp was at Khireswar on the 1st April 1889, where Mr. R. C. Wroughton, the Divisional Forest Officer, Poona, joined him, and the Syhádri forests about the Málsej Ghát and the head-waters of the Mina were inspected. The forest boundary upon these hills is taken far up the slopes to the foot of the first scrap, and all below that limit is periodically shaved to provide ráb material, and also for a wretched inferior cultivation carried on *in situ* with the bill-hook and fire. The cultivation areas in the plains below at the head of the valley are of exceptionally good soil, and grow wheat almost to the verge of the Gháts; and the afforestation of the lower belt of the steep hills draining on to them is all that is required to enhance the productiveness of the flat lands. While encamped at Nurgudi in the Mina valley, about 3 miles from Junnar, a word was received from the Forest Guards below the Gháts in the Murbád Taluka of the Thana Collectorate, that Koli villagers of Bhiwri, Ingulun and Ámboli, above the Gháts, in the Junnar Sub-division, had descended the Ámboli Ghát in a body and made a raid upon the Government forests below in the Murbád Range, and that they had rolled rocks and stones down upon the Murbád Forest Guards who had detected their proceedings, &c., and had attempted to catch them. The Conservator accordingly with the Divisional Forest Officer, Poona, and the Range Forest Officer, Junnar, visited the timber market at Junnar, the next morning, and apprehended 20 Kolis bringing freshly cut stolen timber, such as the private lands and Government forests above the Syhádri at the head of the Mina valley cannot produce, and could only have come from the reserved forests in the Konkan; these men were taken before the Magistrate, who took bail at once from them to the extent of Rs. 25 each, and the names of 34 other villagers, who were detected conveying similarly stolen timber, were recorded; and the Divisional Forest Officer of South Thána was instructed to take proceedings under the Forest Act against the offenders. And a report was made to the District Magistrate of Poona, Mr. East, who at once instructed the Police Department of his Collectorate to adopt preventive measures against similar raids in the future. The 20 Kolis, who had been arrested and bailed, were tried by the Subordinate Magistrate of Murbád, in the Thána Collectorate, some months afterwards, and were convicted and sentenced to a fine of Rs. 2 each. The District Magistrate of Thána informed the Conservator that in reviewing the 3rd class Magistrate's calendar he had stated that the sentences were too light and that the men should have been imprisoned. The Conservator then marched with Mr. Wroughton over several cross ranges of hill abutting from the Syhádri, through the Junnar, Ámbegaon, Khed and Mával Forest Ranges, when teak and other forests were daily inspected and coupes were visited. After the Easter vacation camp was rejoined at Lingmala in the Mahábaleshvar Range of the Sátára Division, to which it had moved in the meanwhile, when the forests all round were visited with local Forest officials: and with the Commissioner, C. D., and the Collector of Sátára, the Conservator made a detailed inspection of the forest and other lands immediately surrounding the station of Mahábaleshvar, the far-famed health resort of Western India. From this place the Conservator marched through a portion of the Wái and Koregaon talukas of the Sátára District, to the Purandhar Range of the Poona District, inspecting the forests of these ranges, and